

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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IN THIS ISSUE

- 2010 Equity Forum
- Congratulations!! Kudos!! Hat's Off!!
- CEC to Brief Congress on Restraint and Seclusion Procedures
- Funding Reminders
- Coming in the Next Issue

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Behavioral Support & Special Programs Section Update

Opening the Lines of Communication...

Please review the following information about upcoming events and recent changes within our section. This document is provided in an attempt to enhance communication and provide support to each of your districts. We hope that you'll look forward to future editions!

2010 Equity Forum

Submitted by Teresa Dais, DPI

The 2010 Leadership for Excellence and Equity Forum will be held February 16 & 17, 2010 in Phoenix, Arizona. This is the next generation of the National Center for Culturally Responsive Educational Systems (NCCRESt) Forums that were previously held in Denver, Colorado and Washington, DC, respectively. Educators, policy makers, students, parents, advocacy groups, and community members will gather to share current research and best practices related to building and strengthening systems of educational equity. This equity forum will provide the opportunity for several potential areas of focus, including civil and educational rights, disproportionality in special education, school-family partnerships, organizing schools for inclusive education, and more. If you are interested in submitting a proposal or attending this Forum, information can be obtained at <http://www.equityallianceatasu.org/ea/conference>. Proposals can be in the form of presentations/discussions, workshops, panels, and roundtables. If you have additional questions, please contact Teresa Dais at tdais@dpi.state.nc.us.

Congratulations!! Kudos!! Hat's Off!!

Submitted by Valencia Davis, DPI

We would like to salute the Charter Schools of North Carolina for a 99% timely submission rate of the IDEA 611 Grant for 2009-2010. This rate is up 40% from last year. Charter Schools we are working toward 100% for the 2010-2011 Grant submission. Keep up the good work!

We would like to salute the State-Operated Programs of North Carolina for a 100% timely submission rate of the IDEA 611 Grant for 2009-2010. This rate is up 33% from last year. Keep up the good work for the 2010-2011 Grant submission.



CEC to Brief Congress on Restraint and Seclusion Procedures

Submitted by Dreama McCoy

ARLINGTON, VA, JUNE 5, 2009 — On June 8, 2009 the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) presented *Enhancing School Safety: Appropriate Use of Restraint and Seclusion Procedures* in a special congressional briefing.

The briefing, held in collaboration with the Council for Children with Behavior Disorders (CCBD), a division of CEC, featured Joseph B. Ryan as lead speaker. Ryan is a CEC/CCBD member, an assistant professor of special education at Clemson University, and a leading expert on behavior management.



Ryan addressed CCBD's recommendations that teachers use physical restraint and seclusion only as last resort when addressing a student's challenging behavior and only when the child or others are in immediate danger. CCBD also recommends that schools emphasize **positive behavior supports** for students and provide de-escalation training for all staff as means to prevent crisis situations from occurring in classrooms.



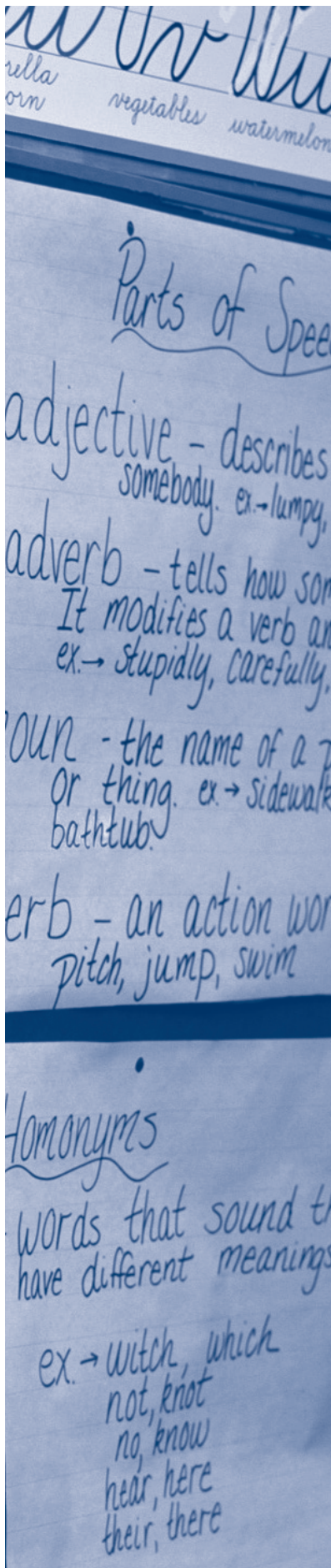
Two additional speakers, middle school principal Deborah Pfortmiller of Shawnee, Kans., and psychologist George Tetreault of Brainerd, Minn., offered examples of these evidence-based practices from the field.

"CEC and CCBD look forward to positively contributing to the national discussion on this important issue," said CEC President Kathleen Puckett. "The special education community holds itself to very high professional ethics and standards. One child harmed is one too many, especially when there are proven, evidence-based practices to manage challenging behaviors without resorting to restraints or seclusion."

The briefing echoed position papers recently published by CCBD on the use of seclusion and restraint in schools, an issue that has received much public attention in the past few months. In January, the National Disability Rights Network released a report on the abuse of these procedures in public schools. Shortly thereafter, Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), Chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor, asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to further investigate the matter.

On May 19 Chairman Miller convened a hearing on the GAO's final report, which included detailed information about 13 incidents from across the country where students were harmed or killed by the improper use of restraints and seclusion in public schools, sparking a nationwide debate.

CCBD is the official division of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) committed to promoting and facilitating the education and general welfare of children and youth with emotional or behavioral disorders. CEC is an international community of educators who are the voice and vision of special and gifted education. CEC's mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with exceptionalities and their families through professional excellence and advocacy.



Funding Reminders

Submitted by Chris Alberti, DPI

As the new school year begins, it is important to be familiar with the variety of funding that is available to assist students with extraordinary needs. The EC section of the DPI web site lists application information and all of the documents needed for each available fund. DPI's EC funding programs were created to assist LEAs and Charter Schools with special situations that place additional stress on budgets. Special funding gives the extra boost that is needed to help ensure that all students have access to a free, appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

Please keep these points in mind as you consider special funding options for student with extraordinary needs:

- Do not fax funding applications to DPI. This uses a lot of paper and often the information is illegible. Original signatures are needed on all documents.
- Comply with submission guidelines. Several of the funding programs require that applications are due to DPI within 60 days from the date of enrollment.
- If you are considering a request for group home/foster home funding, review the application process for special state reserve funding as well. If a student residing in a group home generates costs above what the per child allocation rate is for group/foster home funding, an LEA may request special state reserve funding instead and receive funding sufficient to cover the needs of the student.
- Double check the accuracy of birth dates and enrollment dates when completing rosters. Inaccuracy in either of these dates can affect funding amounts and processing may be delayed.
- For reasons of confidentiality, do not enter a student's full name in a document that is e-mailed. Either password protect the file or use a code to identify the student (i.e., initials and date of birth).
- When requests for additional slots are made for either developmental day center or community residential center (after the initial application is made) send a new roster (DDCF-2) with the additions only. Do not make a copy of the original roster and add the additions.
- Follow the guidelines for reversion of funds when students withdraw. Both Risk Pool and Special State Reserve funding programs require a reversion form to be sent with the amount to be reverted. Unspent funds cannot be used for other expenses or other children in the LEA/Charter School.

Coming in the Next Issue

183 schools in North Carolina have earned PBS recognition this year! These schools will be recognized at the 59th Conference on Exceptional Children in Greensboro, November 2-4 and listed in the next issue of the BSSP Update.